

# Seattle Police Department Manual

Kathleen O'Toole, Chief of Police

## 13.050 - POLICING BY MOUNTAIN BIKE

Effective Date: 02/01/2016

This policy pertains to use of mountain bicycles by Seattle Police officers. For information about the use of a bicycle as a force tool, please see Manual Section 8.300-Use of Force Tools-POL-5.

### 13.050-POL-1 Training & Equipment

#### 1. Bicycle Officers Must Complete Basic Mountain Bicycle Patrol Training

Precinct captains will ensure that officers assigned to a bicycle squad keep their skills current with on-going in-service training, and may designate training days to work on specific skills.

The Education & Training Section maintains a list of officers qualified and trained to ride a police mountain bicycle.

#### 2. Officers Must Maintain the Physical Fitness Level Required for Bicycle Squad Assignment

#### 3. Each Bicycle Officer Will Be Equipped With Department-Approved Cycling Clothing and Gear

- Cycling helmet, gloves, shoes, and shorts (See the Uniform Reference Catalog)
- Safety glasses
- Raingear
- Regular duty gear required for uniformed patrol
- Whistle

#### 4. Police Bicycles Will Be Equipped Based on the Generally-Accepted Standards for Police Bicycles

The bicycles used by the Department will comply with SMC 11.44.160, Lamps and Reflectors on Bicycles.

The precinct captain may approve additional equipment.

#### 5. Officers Will Perform Safety Checks on Their Bicycles Before and After Each Shift

#### 6. Officers That Perform Maintenance and Repairs on Bicycles Must Be Certified Through an Appropriate Bicycle School or Manufacturer

#### 7. Officers Will Transport Bicycles in a Carrier Designed for This Purpose or in Such a Manner as Not to Damage the Bicycle or the Vehicle Transporting the Bicycle

#### 8. Officers Will Report Any Damage to a Bicycle to their Sergeant

### 13.050-POL-2 Operations

### **1. Precincts Captains and the Officers Assigned to Bicycle Squads Will Determine When the Use of Bicycle Patrol is Appropriate and Safe**

The bicycle patrol will operate year-round. It is at the discretion of the precinct captains and officers to determine if weather conditions make bicycle operation unsafe or impractical.

### **2. Bicycle Officers Will Not Usually Be Dispatched to Calls, But Will Respond to Calls in Their District When Feasible**

### **3. Officers are Responsible for the Safe Operation of Their Bicycle**

Officers will follow all applicable rules of the road, except when necessary to effect a law enforcement purpose (e.g., crowd management, emergency response, etc.)

Officers will ride with due regard for the safety of all persons under all circumstances.

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